

From: Joel Duggan
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 8:02am
Subject: Re: MS settlement

To whom it may concern,

You call this punishment for illegally maintaining their monopoly?!?!? This settlement is a joke! This won't be of any help to consumers. Actually, if this settlement goes through, this could do more damage to the consumer than if you left MS alone in the first place. The settlement, as written is a clear victory for Microsoft! It basically tells them that all the things they did to be declared guilty, they can continue doing because even if another case gets started, they can just buy their way out of it, again. It makes the legal sytem look woefully inadequate.

When the breakup was ordered, then the appeal sent it back for a new remedy hearing, I thought, "Well the Justice department did better then anyone expected, and actually increased competition." The only way Linux was able to get the foothold they have, and get the big backers (IBM, SUN, etc.) was because this case was ongoing, and MS had to watch their behavior. If it weren't for the antitrust case Microsoft would have just threatened computer makers and manufacturers by refusing to sell Windows to them. So I felt like the job was done. With the foothold Linux gained there would be real competition in the OS field, and we would finally see some REAL innovation and price cuts. Then this settlement comes out, and basically tells MS, "Go ahead do whatever, we'll just look the other way."

Unbelievable!!

Please reconsider the effects this settlement will have. Just say NO!

Joel Duggan